# DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CHAMÆLEON FROM KILIMA-NJARO, EASTERN AFRICA.

BY

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## **Chamæleo[*] abbotti**, sp. nov.

*Diagnosis.*—Neither gular, nor ventral, nor dorsal crest; snout ending in two compressed and serrated scaly appendages; no trace of occipital dermal lobes; body granular, irregularly intermixed with numerous rounded tubercles; a parietal crest.

Habitat. Kilima-njaro, East Africa, 4,500 feet altitude.

*Type.* U. S. National Museum, No. 16744. Named in honor of its discoverer, Dr. W. L. Abbott, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Description of type specimen.*—Casque broad and rather flattened, only moderately elevated behind; a distinct, though low, parietal crest not reaching the apex of the casque; the distance between the corner of the mouth and the apex of the casque equals that between the former and the tip of the snout; lateral crest surrounding the casque posteriorly, tubercular; superciliary crest considerably raised, rounded and tubercular; two compressed, scaly rostral appendages, or horns, diverging anteriorly, each with three serrated ridges of large pointed scales, one above and one lateral, the latter in direct continuation of the superciliary ridge and canthus rostralis; top of head symmetrically covered with numerous irregular scales and granules of various sizes; no trace of occipital lobes; body granular with two or three indefinite rows of irregular flat tubercles on each side of the upper half between the lateral "pavement" series and the median dorsal line; no tubercles, or spines, on the latter, which is covered with minute granules; no gular nor ventral crests; no tarsal process; tail longer than body and head including horns. Color (in alcohol) plumbeous, with indications of a whitish spot below and behind the eye and continued posteriorly in an indistinct and interrupted stripe over the shoulders; throat pale.

In addition to the type specimen, there are two more specimens from the same locality, agreeing in all essential points with the above description.

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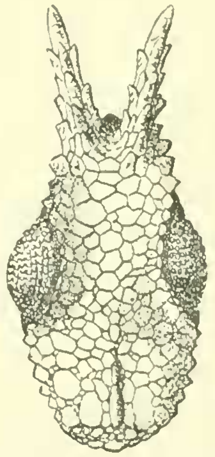
[*] This is the spelling adopted by the founder of the genus, and consequently the one to be employed to the exclusion of the more commonly accepted *Chamæleon.*

*Dimensions in millimeters.*

| U. S. National Museum numbers | 16744. | 16743. | 16747. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total length from tip of snout to tip of tail | 175 | 194 | 197 |
| From tip of snout to posterior end of mandible | 18 | 19 | 18 |
| From tip of snout to apex of casque | 23 | 26 | 25 |
| Length of rostral process from base anteriorly | 10 | 10 | 11 |
| Distance between tips of rostral processes | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Greatest width between lateral cranial crests | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Tibia | 14 | 16 | 15 |
| Tail | 96 | 110 | 107 |

Until quite recently the horned chamæleons of this particular group were supposed to be confined to Madagascar only. In 1887, however, Dr. Reichenow described a *Chamæleo fischeri* from some mountain region in Central Africa, a species apparently related to *Ch. bifidus* from Madagascar. From this, as well as from all other two-horned chamæleons known to me, the present form differs at once by the total absence of either a dorsal, gular, or ventral crest. Another notable feature in the present species is the continuation of the superciliary crests into the *lateral* crests of the horns.

The collection brought home by Dr. Abbott and generously donated to the Museum also contains four specimens of *Chamæleo roperi*, recently described by Mr. Boulenger (P. Z. S., 1890, p. 85, pl. VIII, fig. 4), from the same locality. I find the characters ascribed to this form quite constant.



Head of *Chamæleo abbotti*, seen from above.
About 1⅓ times natural size.